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CAPITAL REPORT U.S. IN MIDEAST

Ike Made Decision!

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, JULY 25.—Herewith are some of the confidential highlights of the first hectic week of conferences at the White House on the Mid-east crisis.

Item: Ike himself made the decision to send troops into Lebanon and his strongest advice came from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The State Department was namby-pamby, as always, and said intervention was sure to stir the Russians into violent reaction.

The Joint Chiefs said it had to be done; if the Soviet Union were able to get control of the Mideast, it would have three-fourths of the world's known oil reserves, and it could bring Europe to a grinding standstill in one week.

Item: The Joint Chiefs talked in language the President understood, reminding him that the side that controls the Mideastern oil reserves, will control the world within 10 years.

ITEM: IN contrast to precedent, the Lebanon decision had not been made at the time the first contingent of 22 Congressional leaders came to the White House, on the afternoon of the morning that the coup d'etat was staged in Iraq. Without making any great point of it, the President told his visitors this, said he realized it would be his decision to make, but wanted the advice and counsel of all.

He spent about 15 minutes in his original presentation, then turned the session over to Allan Dulles, who sheepishly gave an intelligence report, which consisted of meager press dispatches which everyone present had heard repeated 50 times during the day. His CIA had not one iota of new information, and still had none at the end of the week.

Item: John Foster Dulles made a concise presentation, first of the arguments against sending armed forces in and then the case in favor of it. The President listened glumly. At the close of the two hour and 40 minute meeting, the decision still had not been made, but he told the departing guests that he would make one within three or four hours.

ITEM: CONSPICUOUS by his absence in all of the long series of meetings was Sherman Adams, who ordinarily is the maestro of all such operations. His name was never mentioned by any of the guests nor by the President. Actually he was in his nearby office throughout, but simply was excluded from the conferences.

Item: The President was frankly disdainful of the United Nations, and brushed aside all references to it with some very salty language to the effect that the whole Mideast could go down the drain before any action could be forthcoming from that source.

John Foster Dulles, to the surprise of all present, seemed to concur in this attitude. He also said he did not believe the Russians are in a position to risk World War III, and would stop short of shooting.

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